Title: Need to solve the problem faced by farmers regarding supply of seed and irrigation facilities in Andhra Pradesh. - Laid.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (KHAMMAM) : Sir, the farmers in Andhra Pradesh and other States like Maharashtra are facing serious problems and grave prospects of uncertainty over Kharif crop. Having already suffered due to three consecutive years of drought, the farmers, are now faced with serious problems of non-availability of quality seeds and uncertainty of irrigation water.

Despite two months of Monsoon, the Krishna basin remains alarmingly empty, causing anxiety to farmers of a massive ayacut of over 38 lakh acres. This is likely to cause a telling effect on the States foodgrain production, upsetting the ambitious targets. This scenario is largely attributable to 'Almati Impact' and to some extent the monsoon failure in Krishna catchment of 99,980 sq. miles.

The farmer are also bewildered by the all-round dwindling prices of agricultural products, including wheat and rice, and indiscriminate imports and dumping of foodgrains from Burma and other countries at very low prices, threatening to shatter the economy of the farmers under the WTO regime, despite fixation of the Minimum Support Prices.

May I fervently urge upon the Union Minister of Agriculture to come to the rescue of the farmers in distress in Andhra Pradesh and around, to ensure that small problems like supply of standard seeds may not assume serious proportions and to secure their due share of Krishna waters to the farmers in Andhra Pradesh and the area around.